Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases

SEMINAR REPORT 2019
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### SALZBURG OMI CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES SEMINAR

**December 1 - 7, 2019**

- 26 fellows from 17 different countries and regions
- 9 faculty members from the United States, Switzerland and Austria
- 21 lectures, 1 case presentation session given by faculty
- 26 interesting case presentations by fellows
- 4 excellent case presentations selected by faculty

### Faculty Photo (L-R)

James G. Krueger, MD, PhD (Co-Course Director); Georg Stingl, MD (Course Director); Nikolaus Romani, PhD and Georg Stary, MD

Not pictured: Christine Bangert, MD; Wolfgang Bauer, MD; Marie-Charlotte Brueggen, MD, PhD; Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD, PhD and Stefan Woehrl, MD, MSc
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<td>08:00</td>
<td>Introductions Pre-Seminar Test</td>
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<td>Skin Immune System</td>
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<td>Dendritic Cells</td>
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<td>Contact Dermatitis</td>
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<td>T-Cells</td>
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<td>Hidradenitis Suppurativa</td>
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**2019 Salzburg OMI Seminar in Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases**  
**Sunday, December 1 - Saturday, December 7, 2019**
OMI SEMINAR
in
SALZBURG

"Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases"

December 1 – 7, 2019

FACULTY
Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD is the Medical Director of the American Austrian Foundation. He is Associate Dean for International Medicine and Distance Learning, Adjunct Prof. of Clinical Urology and Adjunct Prof. of Clinical Reproductive Medicine at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University/New York Presbyterian Hospital. In 2016, he was appointed Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics in the Associated Faculty of the Perelman School of Medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He is also Associate Prof. of Urology at the Medical University of Innsbruck and Visiting Professor at the Medical University of Vienna. Amongst others he is a member of the American, German and Austrian Societies of Urology and was awarded the Zuckerkandlpreis of the Austrian Society of Urology in 1989. In 1995 he received the Silver Medal, in 2007 the Golden Medal for Merits to the Republic of Austria and in 2014 the cross of honor of the Land Salzburg. As Director of the Medical Program of the American Austrian Foundation he has initiated the Open Medical Institute, a scientific and educational collaboration of Weill Cornell and the NewYork Presbyterian Hospital, the Children Hospital of Philadelphia, Duke University, Columbia University, the Cleveland Clinic and leading hospitals in Austria. Dr. Aulitzky earned his medical degree at the University of Innsbruck in 1977, was a research associate at the University of Uppsala, Sweden and the Rockefeller University, New York. He received his training as an urologist at the University of Innsbruck and the General Hospital of Salzburg. He is the author of more than 140 publications on Urology, Andrology and Health Care issues and is co-author of books on basic and clinical urology/andrology.

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Georg Stingl, MD (Course Director) is Professor Emeritus at the Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria. Dr. Stingl earned his MD from the University of Vienna Medical School in 1973. After his internship and residency training at the Department of Dermatology I of Vienna's University Medical School, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Dermatology Branch of the National Cancer Institute (1977-1978) and as a guest scientist at the Laboratory of Immunology, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (1985-1986) of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA. From 1978-1981 he served as faculty member of the Department of Dermatology of Innsbruck's University Medical School and then moved to Vienna where he ultimately became Professor and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology at the Medical University. Dr. Stingl's major scientific accomplishments include the discovery of Langerhans cells as immunocytes and their role as targets of physicochemical agents, drugs and HIV; the first identification of the indigenous T cell population of rodent skin; the detection of anti-FcεR1 autoantibodies in the sera of patients with chronic urticaria; the use of genetically modified melanoma cells as vaccines for patients with far advanced disease; the induction of lytic molecules on dendritic cells after stimulation with TLR 7/8 ligands and the phenotypic characterization of innate lymphoid cells in normal and diseased human skin. In addition, he conducted many clinical trials investigating safety and efficacy of different immunomodulatory compounds. His work is documented in more than 250 original publications, 200 reviews and book chapters as well as four books. Over the years, Dr. Stingl has appeared as guest professor at several medical universities and as invited speaker at many symposia and conferences. He is a member of the board of several scientific societies and organizations, advisory panels, scientific journals and committees. During his career he has received several prestigious awards such as the William Montagna Award and the Stephen Rothman Award of the Society for Investigative Dermatology and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Skin Association. In 1999, he received the Honorary Doctorate from the Semmelweis Medical University in Budapest and the Silver Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria in Vienna. He is Honorary Member of the Society for Investigative Dermatology, the European Society for Dermatological Research and The Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology. He is also Member of the Austrian and the German Academy of Sciences as well as Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Medicine.

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James G. Krueger, MD, PhD (Co-Course Director) is a dermatologist with a focus on the study of cutaneous immunity and inflammatory skin diseases. He completed undergraduate studies in biochemistry at Princeton University, then obtained a PhD in cellular biology and virology from the Rockefeller University and a MD degree from Cornell University Medical College. He subsequently completed a dermatology residency at the New York Hospital/Cornell University Medical College. He has been a faculty member at Rockefeller University for more than 25 years, where he is now professor and head of laboratory as well as CEO of the Rockefeller University Hospital. Dr. Krueger has worked extensively on the pathogenesis of psoriasis vulgaris over the last two decades and has mapped out many of the cytokine response pathways in this disease. This work has formed the basis for the successful development of new cytokine-targeted therapeutics in psoriasis. His work is extensively published in more than 337 original articles and he is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. He is married to Dr. Emma Guttman, Professor of Dermatology at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

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Christine Bangert, MD is a dermatologist who specializes predominantly in allergic and inflammatory skin diseases. Dr Bangert was born and grew up in Southern Germany in the state of Baden-Württemberg, where she completed her undergraduate studies. She graduated from Medical University of Lübeck in Northern Germany and moved to Vienna, completing her residency at the Department of Dermatology at the Medical University of Vienna. Her fellowship training specializing in allergic and inflammatory skin diseases was with Dr. Tamara Kopp and Dr. Georg Stingl. Dr. Bangert’s research interests include the pathogenic analysis of the cellular and molecular components of several inflammatory skin diseases such as allergic contact dermatitis, atopic eczema or psoriasis. Of special interest to her are clinical and immunological changes after treatment with biologic agents thereby learning more about disease-specific mechanisms. Recent publications include a report on the improvement of psoriasis after anti-IL-23p19 therapy in *Nature* and a detailed analysis of the cellular and molecular changes in atopic dermatitis after ustekinumab treatment in the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. Dr. Bangert is a member of the steering committee of the Austrian task force of allergology and of various international and national dermatological societies. Dr. Bangert works as senior clinical specialist in dermatology at the Medical University of Vienna where she is currently head of the allergy outpatient clinic and the clinical trial unit. She lives in Vienna with her family.

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Wolfgang Bauer, MD is a dermatologist from Vienna with a keen interest in the skin immune system. Dr. Bauer grew up in Germany and Austria, graduated from Vienna Medical University and completed his dermatology residency at the Division of Immunology, Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the Department of Dermatology of the Medical University of Vienna. His main research interests include cellular and molecular immunology of the skin with a focus on work relying on ex vivo isolated cell populations. In addition, he has been working on cutaneous lymphomas and myeloproliferative skin diseases. Recent publications include a microscopic evaluation of innate lymphoid cells in human skin as well as works on rare subtypes of cutaneous lymphomas. Dr. Bauer currently serves as a senior physician at the Department of Dermatology. He lives in Vienna with his wife Verena and their children Pauline and Levi.

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Marie-Charlotte Brueggen, MD, PhD is a dermatologist and Assistant Professor with special interest in inflammatory skin diseases. Dr. Brueggen grew up in Basel, Switzerland, and graduated from Geneva Medical School (Geneva, Switzerland). Following a research fellowship during medical school, she joined Professor Georg Stingl's group at the Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Vienna for a PhD in immunology. Dr. Brueggen has pursued her interest in inflammatory skin diseases as well as the role of subcutaneous adipose tissue on skin immune homeostasis at the Department of Dermatology of the University Hospital Zurich, where she completed her dermatology residency. Her work has been published in high-impact journals such as *Blood* and *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*. Dr. Brueggen’s research efforts have earned her various awards, such as the Heinrich A Spitz Award, the Roche Young Investigator Award and the ESDR/SID Collegiality Award and she currently holds several research grants. Dr. Brueggen lives with her husband in Zurich and works at the Department of Dermatology of Zurich University Hospital and the Allergy Campus in Davos.

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Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD, PhD is the Kest and Clara Kest Professor of dermatology and immunology and vice chair for research in the Department of Dermatology as well as the director of the Center for Excellence in Eczema, and the Laboratory of Inflammatory Skin Diseases at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York. She earned her MD from the Sackler Faculty of Medicine at the University of Tel-Aviv in Israel and a PhD from Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel. After her Israeli board certification in dermatology, Dr. Guttman moved to the U.S. to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship at Rockefeller University and a second dermatology residency at Weill Cornell Medicine, both located in New York. Her major focus is atopic dermatitis (AD). She made paradigm-shifting discoveries on the immunologic basis of AD in humans, enriching the understanding of its pathophysiology and opening the door to new therapeutics. She has developed comprehensive molecular maps of AD, defining skin differentiation and immune-circuits characterizing this disease. She has established the reversibility of the AD phenotype and defined a series of biomarkers that are now accelerating testing of novel pathway-specific drugs for this disease. Recently she has extended her research interest to alopecia areata, in which her findings are also being translated into possible novel therapeutic targets. She co-founded the International Eczema Council, for which she functions as president-elect. She was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the American Dermatological Society and received the Young Investigator Award from the American Academy of Dermatology in 2011.

Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD, PhD
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Nikolaus Romani, PhD is an immunologist who studies antigen-presenting cells of the skin, in particular dendritic cells with a focus on Langerhans cells, the dendritic cell variant of the epidermis. He is interested in dissecting their roles in the generation of immunity and tolerance in cancer and infection models in vivo and the ultimate translation of this knowledge to human medicine. Dr. Romani obtained his PhD in biology at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, in 1983. He did his post-doctoral training at Rockefeller University, New York, USA, in the lab of 2011 Nobel laureate Dr. Ralph Steinman, discoverer of dendritic cells. He became associate professor in 1990 and professor in 2012. Dr. Romani and his colleague Dr. Gerold Schuler helped make Innsbruck one of the first "dendritic cell strongholds" outside the United States in the 1990s. The Experimental Dermatology Unit at the Department of Dermatology at the Medical University of Innsbruck is focusing on immunization approaches that target defined subsets of skin dendritic cells by means of antibodies against antigen uptake receptors. The ultimate goal is to induce robust immunity, e.g. against cancer antigens, which will help to augment patients' responses to modern immune checkpoint therapies of cancer. He is a co-editor of Handbook of Dendritic Cells: Biology, Diseases and Therapies and is a recipient of several awards. He initiated and promoted the development of a strong dendritic cell research group and the establishment of the Laboratory for Langerhans Cell Research under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Patrizia Stoitzner at the Innsbruck Dermatology Department.

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Georg Stary, MD is a dermatologist who specializes in infectious and immunological disorders. Dr. Stary grew up in Vienna, Austria, and graduated from Medical University of Vienna. He completed his residency at the Vienna General Hospital / Medical University of Vienna and performed several research projects under Prof. Stingl's supervision. After his residency, Dr. Stary worked for 4 years as postdoctoral research fellow in Prof. von Andrian’s lab at Harvard Medical School, Boston. Dr. Stary’s research interests include the cellular immune system of the skin and mucosa, host-pathogen interactions and clinical translation of his findings. Recent publications include a major paper on a new mucosal vaccine design in Science and the evaluation of cutaneous T cell responses in the skin of patients suffering from graft-versus-host disease in Blood and the Journal of Investigative Dermatology. He is a peer reviewer for multiple major journals in dermatology and immunology. Dr. Stary’s research efforts have earned him grants from the Austrian Science Fund, Max-Kade Foundation and Austrian Central Bank. Dr. Stary is currently on the faculty of Medical University of Vienna as Associate Professor of Dermatology and examines dermatological patients as senior physician. He lives in Vienna with his wife Victoria and children Simon, David and Anna.

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Stefan Woehrl, MD, MSc graduated with a master’s degree in Science in Biology/Genetics from the Universities of Salzburg and Vienna in 1996 and earned an additional Medical Degree from the University of Vienna in 1999. From 2000-2006 he did his residency in dermatology and venereology at Prof. Georg Stingl's Division of Immunology, Allergy and Infectious Diseases (DIAID) in the Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Vienna. In 2007, he became Assistant Professor (“Privatdozent”) for Dermatology & Venereology at the DIAID and wrote his habilitation thesis on “Improvements in the clinical diagnosis of allergic diseases of the skin and the respiratory tract”. From 2009 to 2011, he was an assistant and in 2012 he became Associate Professor at the DIAID. In 2012, he left the medical university of Vienna to become a full member of the Floridsdorf Allergy Centre (FAZ), Central Europe’s biggest allergy outpatient clinic. Between 2013 and 2017, he re-joined Prof. Stingl’s DIAID as part-time senior consultant. Dr. Woehrl is member of several academic organizations and international societies. His research interest mainly lies on the diagnosis of the whole range of allergic diseases in clinical allergology including allergic contact dermatitis, hymenoptera venom allergy, component resolved allergy diagnosis of allergic rhinitis and asthma and the clinical management of drug hypersensitivity.

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SALZBURG

"Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases"

December 1 – 7, 2019

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Fellow Booklet 708SWCS19 Chronic Inflammatory Skin Diseases

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December 1, Sunday. I arrived to Salzburg by train, before noon. It’s my second time attending an OMI seminar this year and this time I came with a friend and colleague of mine from University. After a quick bus ride from the airport. I have checked in and arrived in my cozy room, but not for long. I took a bus to St. Gilgen, a fairy-tale small town just a few kilometers away from Salzburg. I have spent a couple of hours at the Christmas market. After eating roasted chestnuts and drinking “Gluhwein” I hurried to get back to Schloss Arenberg to be prepared for the welcome reception and dinner. Me and Anastasia were wearing some traditional hand decorated shirts as it was the Romanian National Day. The atmosphere in the lobby was very nice. I met the professors and it was nice to see Dr. Aulitzky again. I have met the fellows and I enjoyed every moment speaking to them. One of them was a girl from Latvia. I first met her in Bucharest, a couple of years ago, while attending a course. It was nice to see her again. What a small world...

December 2, Monday. I woke up very early, fresh and enthusiastic about the seminar. After a short walk, enjoying the fresh air and watching the dancing snowflakes I had a tasty breakfast while talking and talking with the others. The pre-seminar test seemed endless to me... so many things I had no idea about. Suddenly topics became scary but Dr. Stingl started to clarify things about immunology. What a relief. Dr. Romani continued the explanations and after that Dr. Bangert discussed how immunology works in contact dermatitis. I was getting more and more confident, because things were getting closer to clinical practice. We moved forward to Hidradenitis suppurativa and Rosacea. It rained all day long but it was a good weather for science. At the end of the presentations, Ms. Faschang made a short but full of information presentation about the American Austrian Foundation and about the OMI seminars. After some free hours, we all returned to have dinner. After that I had nice quality time, talking about experiences and cultural issues with fellows from Mexico, Turkey and Czech Republic, while enjoying a cup of hot tea.

December 3, Tuesday. The second day begun with two amazing presentations about Laboratory investigations held by Dr Bauer and Dr Romani. After the coffee break there was a very nice session with the fellows’ case presentations. I was grateful to hear about so many interesting cases. After lunch, two other nice presentations followed- atopic dermatitis and alopecia areata, with insights about biologic treatment. A lot of questions and answers followed. It was very nice to hear that Dr Guttman-Yassky was born in Romania and that she also speaks Romanian.
December 4, Wednesday. First sunny day. This was very convenient as the afternoon was free. After two fabulous presentations held by Dr Woehrl, we had the coffee break. Everybody was talking about their plans of spending time and visiting Salzburg. The last presentation of the day belonged to Dr. Stary and they were also very interesting. I have spent the free afternoon walking along the streets of Salzburg, enjoying the panorama of the city and the castle. I have also enjoyed walking in the streets by night as the town was nicely decorated for Christmas.

December 5, Thursday. In the morning we heard Dr Stary talking about Cutaneous Signs of HIV Infection. I gained a lot of information about improving my daily practice while treating skin lesions in HIV patients. The lectures about Immunity, Vitiligo and Psoriasis held by Dr Krueger were so complex and I was impressed how easily he transmitted such complex information about pathophysiological mechanisms of the diseases. After that we had the group picture in front of Schloss Arenberg. After lunch we have listened to other case presentations. In the evening we were all gathering in the Grand Hall for a nice and relaxing Chamber Music Concert held by three talented young men, students attending Mozarteum University in Salzburg. Both Professors and Fellows enjoyed the concert a lot and after we had a nice talk with the musicians while enjoying a glass of champagne.

Alice Brinzea, MD, PhD (Romania)
Rather than sharing my full itinerary and list of everyday activities, I would like to highlight things that have been resonating in me each and every night as I come back to my room and have some time to digest my day at Schloss Arenberg. This past week has taught me a lot, not just about skin immunology, but about how the actual dermatology world works in countries other than mine or the US. It has been really enriching to have the opportunity to share a forum, experiences and engage in conversations with people so different, yet so similar to me, if this makes any sense...

November 30, Saturday. The taxi driver from the airport was a VERY nice guy. As soon as he asked where we were going, he couldn't help smiling and asked if we were physicians. He is from Afghanistan but moved to Austria 20 years ago after having his first child. He had been living in Afghanistan after completing medical school in Russia. Also, his wife was an Ob Gyn back home. He came here with his life savings and a heart full of hope. Welcome to Salzburg, Michelle.

December 1, Sunday. I took the train to Vienna at 6 am and booked my ticket to be back for the welcome reception. I made it to the Upper Belvedere Castle and knew this week was going to be a once in a lifetime experience. I came back to Salzburg and as soon as I entered the school's lobby, I started meeting people from all around Europe and Asia. Professor Wolfgang Aulitzky expressed his concern about brain drain in certain countries. I can't remember his exact words, but every day as I met my co-fellows and got to talk to them about the situation in their countries Dr. Aulitzky's message constantly crossed my mind.

December 2, Monday. What was meant to be a “basic immunology” introduction felt like a deep and intense immunology morning to me. We got to meet Professor Romani, whose mentor was awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine in 2011 for the discovery of dendritic cells and their role in adaptive immunity. He made my day when he showed us his own Langerhans cells on a tissue section. Professor Stingl had very good comments for other’s presentations, what a distinctive human being. He’s understanding of clinical dermatology comes from understanding the immunological mechanism of every single disease. Immunology is everything.

December 3, Tuesday. I was glad Dr. Guttman-Yassky finally made it to Salzburg. It was great to reconnect with her and I was really excited to listen to all of her lectures, they’re always pristine. I can’t wait for JAK inhibitors to be widely available (and affordable) in my country. At some point of the day
Dr. Krueger asked the fellows if all these drugs they had been talking about for the last couple of hours (JAK inhibitors, biologics, cyclosporine etc.) were being used in their countries. I’m pretty certain the vast majority of us said no. I guess for some people it is hard to understand how limited some countries are in the medical field, it’s even sometimes hard for me to try to explain. At the same time, it’s refreshing how the faculty members are here engaging in a bilateral, empathetic bi-directional learning process with us. At the end of the day, all these limitations have exploded our problem-solving skills and we are creative and smart doctors.

December 4, Wednesday. Dr. Georg Stary appeared with great lectures. For the past couple of months, I have read a bunch of articles about skin microbiome and its role in tons of inflammatory and neoplastic skin diseases to the point where unconsciously (or not) I have (erroneously) started simplifying everything to “oh it’s probably the microbiome” whenever I don’t have the answer to some dermatologic (and even philosophical) questions. Thank you Dr. Krueger for reminding me that this isn’t by any means true. Apart from treating the dysbiosis you have to treat the actual immune problem, otherwise you will return to the same point every single time.

December 5, Thursday. I was constantly thinking that Professor Stingl has a privileged memory, because he remembers the name of every single author, of every single published article in the field of dermatology. During my night recall of the day I realized he probably knows all these people. I still thought his memory is one of a kind, because remembering their names isn’t actually enough, but he somehow remembers their names and the whole content of their work. That chamber music concert was amazing. I had my presentation today, Professor Stingl asked if I knew who Dr. Schnitzler was, I had been reading about her last night, so I was relieved as I was able to answer his question. To be honest, I knew he would ask.

December 6, Friday. Too bad it’s over. After spending all these days with all of these amazing physicians from all around the world, I can’t help but think how lucky I was when I was selected to assist to this amazing and unique seminar. Sharing knowledge and experiences has been more than special. I’m looking forward to meet again.

Michelle Gatica Torres, MD (Mexico)